

1952

## BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Chairman of Council :*

W. G. BECKETT, Esq.

### **General Purposes Committee :**

*Chairman :*

A. POWELL, Esq.

*Members :*

Col. R. L. Agnew

A. Hodges, Esq.

Mrs. K. D. Benfield

T. S. Mitchinson, Esq.

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Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue.

F. Tofield, Esq.

W. E. Good, Esq.

W. F. Wood, Esq.

W. G. Beckett, Esq. and the Hon. Mrs. J. P. Heywood-Lonsdale  
*ex-officio* members.

### **Public Health Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for  
Buckingham M.B., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C.,  
Wing R.D.C., Area Medical Officer for North Bucks  
and Divisional School Medical Officer for North Bucks  
and the Buckingham and Winslow Divisions).

*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :*

J. C. SHARPE, M.R.San. I., M.S.I.A.

*Technical Assistant :*

K. E. RICHARDSON.

*Administrative Assistant :*

C. H. BRAY.

# BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
SCHOOL LANE,  
BUCKINGHAM.

*July 11th, 1953.*

*To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1952.

The health of the district was very satisfactory during the year.

It is satisfactory to note an appreciable rise in the birth rate, which is not only higher than that for the previous year but also higher than that for the rest of the County and England and Wales.

The death rate also shows a very good figure. Apart from one Urban Area, it is the lowest of all the County Districts of Buckingham and is 4 points lower than the rate for the whole of England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a most gratifying drop from last year. It is actually the lowest of all the County Districts and is less than half of that for the whole of the County and for England and Wales. This reflects great credit on the skill and attention of the Doctors and Nurses who attended the 163 births during the year.

In the realm of Infectious Disease, we had only 48 notifications as against 237 in the previous year.

A mild outbreak of dysentery, actually five cases were confirmed, occurred in a private school in the district. The outbreak was thoroughly investigated by your Health Staff and controlled.

What might have turned out to be a tragic accident with far reaching consequences occurred at another large Public School in the district.

The Doctor to the School brought to our notice some canned meat which was, in his opinion, unfit for human consumption.

The matter was investigated, analyses made, and as a result the entire stock, involving a considerable sum of money and which had been imported from the Continent, was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

The matter was brought to the notice of the Ministry of Food and it is hoped that more stringent control of imported canned meat will be exercised in the future.

I should like to record again another satisfactory year of co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their Staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

## SECTION A.

### Vital Statistics

					1951	1952
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	54,543	54,543
Population	...	...	...	...	10,527	10,270
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,605	2,654
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£38,300	£39,895
Rate per £	...	...	...	...	21/-	21/9½
Sum represented by a penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£158/2/10	£160/15/3

#### Births :

Legitimate—Males	...	...	...	...	74	82
„ Females	...	...	...	...	65	73
Illegitimate—Males	...	...	...	...	4	4
„ Females	...	...	...	...	3	4

Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	13.9	15.9
„ „ „ (Bucks)	...	...	...	...	15.1	15.2
„ „ (England & Wales)	...	...	...	...	15.5	15.3

Deaths—Males	...	...	...	...	47	42
„ Females	...	...	...	...	49	34

Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	9.1	7.4
„ „ „ (Bucks)	...	...	...	...	10.8	9.9
„ „ (England & Wales)	...	...	...	...	12.5	11.3

Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
„ „ (England & Wales)	...	...	...	...	0.79	0.72

#### Infantile Mortality :

##### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	20.5	12.3
Ditto for Bucks	...	...	...	...	24.6	25.0
Ditto for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	29.6	27.6

Still Births	...	...	...	...	1	6
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Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	1	Nil
„ Whopping Cough	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:	1951			1952		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza ... ..	—	2	2	—	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2	—	—	—
Cancer ... ..	5	5	10	8	4	12
Diabetes ... ..	2	—	2	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	5	7	12	7	9	16
Heart Disease ... ..	22	14	36	12	6	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3	1	—	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	4	6	1	1	2
Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	3	—	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—
Digestive Diseases ...	1	—	1	2	3	5
Nephritis ... ..	1	1	2	2	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violence ... ..	1	1	2	3	2	5
All other Causes ... ..	4	11	15	6	6	12
	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ... ..	47	49	96	42	34	76
	—	—	—	—	—	—

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services

#### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis had to be sent to London.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

This service, which is controlled by the County Health Department, provides for one Motor Ambulance and one sitting case car, located at Buckingham and supplemented if necessary by vehicles from Bletchley. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

#### 4. CLINICS.

(a) *Child Welfare Centre*—There are six static welfare centres serving the District. They are located as follows :—

Buckingham (twice monthly).	Tingewick (twice monthly).
Steeple Claydon (twice monthly).	Twyford (once monthly).
Thornborough (once monthly).	Winslow (twice monthly).

The work of the mobile unit was extended during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Leckhampstead.
Calvert.	Lillingstone Dayrell.
Charndon.	Preston Bissett.

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each session and the Medical Officer attended one monthly. These Centres have done very good work during the year and a total of 1908 children have attended. I should like again to emphasize the excellent work done by the Ladies' Voluntary Committees, who give such valuable assistance at the Centres.

(b) *Immunization Clinics*.—Immunization against Diphtheria and also Whooping Cough was carried out at all the above Centres.

(c) *Chest Clinic*.—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(d) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

(a) *Infectious Diseases*. — Cases were accepted by the following hospitals during the year :—

Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury.

Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

(b) *Tuberculosis*.—Cases were treated at the Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard, and Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.

(c) *General Hospitals*.—General cases were admitted to the following hospitals during the year.

Buckingham Hospital.

Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

Northampton General Hospital.

Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.

Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

After some difficulty, the services of a local voluntary organiser was obtained but up to now, apart from a few cases, the activities of the service are confined to the Borough of Buckingham.

Cases in the Steeple Claydon area have been helped from Winslow.

The County Council have now appointed a full-time Domestic Help Organiser, working directly under the County Health Department but in close liaison with the Women's Voluntary Service, who will pay particular attention to rural areas.



## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### I. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

Work in connection with the Bucks Water Board (River Great Ouse) Regional Scheme is proceeding satisfactorily and it is anticipated that it will be completed and ready for use by the autumn of 1953.

During the year, main extensions have been carried out to a total length of 2,000 yards. This has brought main water to the Coombs, Thornborough, and 12 more properties now have a wholesome and satisfactory supply available.

##### Main Supply.

- (a) Quantity—Satisfactory.
- (b) Quality—Satisfactory.
- (c) Samples taken from the supply (all of which fell in Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) ... 4
- (d) Number of dwelling houses on supply ... 2368
- (e) Estimated number of population served ... 9370

##### Other Sources.

- (a) Samples taken ... 4
- (b) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 2  
(in both cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

#### Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from Other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Six Years.

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1947	7	—	7
1948	19	7	12
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
Totals	54	18	36
		66.66% unsatisfactory.	

#### 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams and water courses throughout the district are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage effluent and adequate disposal arrangements for sewage would obviate to a large degree such pollution.

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Satisfactory progress has been made in connection with the Thornborough Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme. The whole of the sewers have now been laid and it is anticipated that the Works will be ready for use in the early spring. Work on the disposal site has almost been completed and as soon as the mains electricity is available, the pumping plant can be put into operation after which work on the house connections can proceed.

The Tingewick Disposal Works continues to function satisfactorily but this is only due to the maintenance and attention that is given by the Department and a reasonably good effluent is maintained despite the overloading of the works by the adjacent Army Camp. In my last Annual Report, I stated that "negotiations with the War Department continued during the year in order either to limit the amount of sewage discharged by the Army Camp or to have the works enlarged. Very little progress has been made however." This year I have to report that no progress has been made.

Towards the end of the year the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for Marsh Gibbon was put out to tender and it is hoped that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will approve the prices in order that the work can proceed but in view of the present restrictions on capital expenditure for economic reasons, some reduction may have to take place.

The Council had a number of schemes in the course of preparation before the War but up to the end of this year, only two schemes have been sanctioned, one of which had the disposal works installed by the Ministry of Works during the War. At the present rate of progress it will be many years before some of the villages have a main drainage scheme and be allowed to instal modern sanitation with water closets. In the meantime they will still have to put up with their smelly bucket lavatories.

220 yards of surface water sewer were laid at the rear of Greenwood Place, Steeple Claydon, during the year. This scheme was put in hand for the purpose of taking out surface water from the foul sewers and thereby reducing pumping costs. This has been a success.

### 4. WATER CLOSETS.

Four conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out by the Council during the year. Private individuals have also done work of this nature to various properties.

### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collecting vehicle is now five years old but it has continued to give satisfactory service and has ensured the carrying out of the monthly schedule. The amount of refuse collected is still



on the increase and it will not be long before the present schedule of collection will have to be altered. The Council too, will have to give thought to the purchase of another vehicle and it might be as well to reiterate what was said in the last year's report "householders in the district would, however, welcome a more frequent collection than once a month."

Suitable sanitary dustbins for the storage and collection of household refuse are conspicuous by their absence and it is my opinion that the Council, at some early date, will have to give this matter their attention, not only for private property but also for their own Council houses. Proper receptacles would greatly facilitate the actual collecting process and would present a much more pleasing appearance in the villages on collection day, for at the present time, the miscellaneous and various shaped articles used by householders, are most unsightly as well as being unhygienic.

Refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping and with the small labour force available every effort is made to keep the tip in a presentable condition.

The work of cesspool and septic tank emptying continues to be carried out by contract. A new contractor was engaged during the year for this purpose and every satisfaction has been given.

The high price of waste paper and cardboard was not maintained during the year and difficulty was experienced in the sale of it to the merchants. The average price obtained during the year was not sufficient to offset any additional time spent on the collection and no special journeys were made for the salvaging of paper. In consequence of this, the tonnage yield dropped as compared with 1951. During the year 9 tons of waste paper and cardboard were salvaged together with 6 tons of scrap iron, which realised for the Council £70.

#### 6. SCHOOLS.

Improvements have been carried out during the year in connection with the modernisation of sanitary arrangements and canteen facilities.

#### 7. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but an adjacent Public School gives facilities for the use of their private pool to rural residents during the out of term time. This pool is part of an existing lake, sited within the School grounds.

#### 8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Only one case of infestation was reported during the year.

#### 9. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The year's working has been a very satisfactory one and was carried out without the necessity of serving a statutory notice and some credit for this must reflect on the attitude of the public.

Warfarin, an anti-coagulant, has been used with marked effect during the year and good results have been obtained.

The Damage by Pests (Threshing and Dismantling of Ricks) Regulations, 1950, have been enforced in the district and one Contractor had to have his attention drawn to these Regulations owing to non-compliance.

Towards the end of the year the rodent operative took over the van previously used by the Housing Department and in the short time it has been in operation, it has shown that the work of control and survey can be carried out more efficiently.

#### **Work of Inspection and Control.**

(a) Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	63
(b) Number of Inspections and Visits carried out	...	...	...	2734
(c) Number of rat infested areas cleared	...	...	...	321

#### **10. GENERAL SURVEY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS DURING THE YEAR.**

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1952 is appended below :—

Total Numbers of Premises visited	...	...	...	1504
Complaints received	...	...	...	100
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	83
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	1

#### **Factories and Workshops.**

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	3	3	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	10	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	1	1	Nil	Nil
Total ...	22	14	—	—

### **Tents, Vans and Moveable Dwellings.**

Number licensed	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	7
Nuisances found to exist	...	...	...	...	1

### **Drainage.**

Number of New drains examined	...	...	...	85
Number of visits for that purposes	...	...	...	255

### **Storage of Petroleum Spirit.**

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1952 :

500 gallons or less	...	...	...	...	27
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	9
Over 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	2
					<hr/>
Total licences issued	...	...	...	...	38
					<hr/>

One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Disinfections	...	...	...	...	4
Number of Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	6

### **Housing and Building Byelaws.**

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	...	...	...	8
Number of Plans deposited for other works	...	...	...	73
General housing visits	...	...	...	310

### **Other classified visits.**

Housing visits under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	65
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	67
Visits re water supply	...	...	...	33
Visits re drainage and sewerage	...	...	...	215
Visits re refuse collection	...	...	...	87
Visits re refuse disposal	...	...	...	52
Visits in connection with sewage disposal	...	...	...	231
Schools	...	...	...	14
General nuisances	...	...	...	31
Overcrowding	...	...	...	—
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	3
Foul ditches and ponds	...	...	...	59
Visits to shops	...	...	...	19
Unclassified	...	...	...	52

## SECTION D.

### Housing

Up to the end of the year the Council had completed 284 post-war houses, which is a very creditable performance for a comparatively small rural district. The rate of progress during the last year has tended to increase and it is hoped that this will continue. The Council now own 596 houses but it is suggested that a sound housing policy should not be judged solely on the new houses erected and that more consideration should be given to the preservation of existing houses. Unless this is done, many will fall into such a state that demolition is inevitable.

#### Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December, 1952

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction.</i>
Adstock ... ..	12	—	12	—
Akeley ... ..	8	—	8	—
Beachampton ... ..	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden ... ..	4	—	4	—
Charndon ... ..	6	—	6	—
Chetwode ... ..	4	—	4	—
Edgcott ... ..	8	—	8	—
Hillesden ... ..	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell ... ..	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton ... ..	6	—	6	9
Marsh Gibbon ... ..	12	—	12	4
Middle Claydon ... ..	4	—	4	—
Padbury ... ..	14	—	14	—
Poundon ... ..	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett ... ..	8	—	8	4
Radcliffe-cum-Chackmore ... ..	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon ... ..	44	39	83	—
Thornborough ... ..	18	—	18	—
Thornton ... ..	4	—	4	—
Tingewick ... ..	27	10	37	—
Turweston ... ..	6	—	6	—
Twyford ... ..	6	—	6	—
Westbury ... ..	17	—	17	—
Total ... ..	235	49	284	17

Total numbers of house erected and occupied during the  
year 1952 ... .. 35

**Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to  
December 1952.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Con- struction</i>
Akeley ... ..	—	1	1	—
Beachampton ... ..	4	—	4	—
Biddlesden ... ..	5	—	5	—
Charndon ... ..	—	10	10	—
Hillesden ... ..	1	—	1	—
Leckhampstead ... ..	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell ... ..	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton ... ..	3	—	3	—
Marsh Gibbon ... ..	2	3	5	1
Padbury ... ..	4	—	4	1
Radclive-cum-Chackmore ... ..	1	—	1	2
Steeple Claydon ... ..	—	1	1	—
Stowe ... ..	13	—	13	1
Thornborough ... ..	2	1	3	—
Tingewick ... ..	1	1	2	—
Turweston ... ..	2	1	3	—
Water Stratford ... ..	—	1	1	—
Westbury ... ..	6	—	6	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>5</b>

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the  
year 1952 ... .. 23

All urgent cases in need of housing accommodation have now been dealt with and I am of the opinion that the time is now opportune to embark upon action under the Housing Acts for the clearance of premises where slum conditions exist.

**Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the  
Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number of Houses</i>	<i>Number still occupied</i>
Akeley ...	6	3
Beachampton ...	3	3
Stowe ...	7	7
Tingewick ...	2	2

**INSPECTION AND ACTION DURING THE YEAR.**

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for  
habitation ... .. 1

Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking  
was signed to render the premises fit for habitation ... Nil



Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a closing order was made	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## OVERCROWDING.

No cases of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

## RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The survey of houses in the district (as recommended by the Hobhouse Report) continued during the year and a total of 1,051 houses has now been inspected in various parishes and categorised as follows :—

Category I.—Houses satisfactory in all respects	...	81
Category II.—Houses having minor defects only	...	265
Category III.—Houses requiring structural alterations or repairs	... ..	323
Category IV.—Houses suitable for re-conditioning	...	141
Category V.—Houses unfit for habitation and requiring demolition	... ..	241

Approximately 50 per cent. of the estimated total number of houses to be surveyed has now been categorised. Progress naturally is slow in carrying out the survey, owing to the very limited number of staff available and without additional help it will be a number of years before it is completed. Housing surveys of any description should be completed in a relatively short time if they are to be of value, otherwise little or no benefit will be derived.

## THE DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1939.

Five licences were issued during the year to enable owners of six houses on which a Clearance Order is in force, to temporarily use the premises for habitation.

## BUILDING LICENSING

Repairs to houses have proceeded satisfactorily during the year but with the continued licensing restrictions and high cost of repairs it is extremely difficult for owners to maintain their property in a good state of repair. During the year thirty licences were issued for the purpose of repairing dwelling houses.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

No applications were made to the Council for the purpose of obtaining grants for the improvement of dwellings under the Housing Act, 1949.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### MILK.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of tuberculosis in four dairy herds in the district, whilst further samples denoted the presence of *brucella abortus* on twenty-three farms. Investigations were made in all cases and as a result of further veterinary inspections and the slaughtering of animals, the herds affected with tuberculosis were pronounced clear. As far as *brucella abortus* is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations.

#### Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of Distributors on register	...	...	...	7
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The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ”	...	...	...	3
“ Pasteurised ”	...	...	...	1

#### ICE CREAM.

Total number of retailers on register	...	...	11
New applications received and licences granted	...	...	2

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	...	1
“        ”    II	...	...	...	2
“        ”    III	...	...	...	Nil
“        ”    IV	...	...	...	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

#### FOOD.

During the year, three cases of *cysticercus bovis* occurred in animals sent from this district for slaughter. Investigations were subsequently made but no further evidence was forthcoming as to the probable source of infection.

As a result of representations from the Medical Officer of Health of a Public School in the district, examination was made of a consignment of tinned luncheon meat which consisted of 84 cases each of 12  $\times$  4 lbs. tins. Sixteen of these tins, of different brands, were sent for bacteriological examination and two tins sent for chemical analysis, as a result of which the whole consignment was condemned as being unfit for human consumption. The whole of the condemned consignment went for animal feeding stuff.

Foods condemned during the year, include the following :—

Tins of cheese	...	...	...	...	...	19 lb. 8 oz.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	65 lb.
Tins of Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	...	4,032 lb.

## FOOD POISONING.

Five cases of mild food poisoning were notified in the district during the year, all being members of a private boarding school. Specimens of the food which had been eaten were sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, but it was not possible to identify the causative agent. The foods sent for examination included, water, milk, ice cream, cheese, sausage and custard powder. Specimens of the faeces from twelve persons engaged in the handling of food were also taken and submitted for examination but again nothing was identified. All the patients recovered very quickly.

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	3
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	1

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

#### GENERAL.

There was a satisfactory decrease in notifications during the year, only 31 cases of measles being notified as against 208 the previous year.

#### NOTIFICATIONS

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Measles ... ..	15	16	31
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	1	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	2	4
Pneumonia ... ..	1	2	3
Dysentery ... ..	5	1	6
Total ... ..	26	22	48

#### CANCER.

There were twelve deaths from this disease during the year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of non-pulmonary and four cases of pulmonary were notified. Of the pulmonary cases, two were displaced persons. It is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,

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JOHN C. SHARPE,

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